



Fall 1994

\$2.00

Hip Hop Quarterly ~ Information, Production and Advice

Home Studio Under \$2,000

Yes, it's true!!! by buying "Used" equipment, you can have a home project studio for less than \$2,000. So here's the PHAT lowdown on what to buy and how much it will cost you.

Let's start with the equipment you need for the studio.

1. Mixer (at least 8 Channels)
2. Sampler (12 or 16 Bit)
3. Sequencer (Computer)
4. Cords
5. Digital Effects
6. Cassette Mixdown Deck

Now that we've listed the basic tools, let's discuss prices and brands. 1. **Mixers.** The **MACKIE** 1202 (12 Channel) is the best mixer on the market for under a list price of \$350. The "Used" price should be around \$250. The **BOSS BX-8** (8 Channel) is the lowest of the line. If you're lucky enough to find one, it should be around \$100.

2. **Sequencers.** I suggest that you shop around for a computer instead of a little box that only does music.

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Digital Mix: DAT vs. VCR

DAT (Digital Audio Tape-Recorder) is a standard tool in any studio.

Q: Do you really need one in your home studio?

A: No, not really.

The reason is you probably already own a Digital mixdown deck that's just as good as a DAT. I'm talking about your **VCR**.

Your VCR is a digital device that works just like a DAT. In fact, they both have rotary heads. Think about it. Every time you rent a movie from the local video store, you are watching a digital picture and listening to digital sound. So to save yourself some BIG money, here's how to hook it up.

1. Connect the VCR to the source of your mixdown (L and R mixer outputs) 2. Pop in a fresh tape. 3. Select the fastest recording speed (Best Quality) 4. Now press record. 5. Log tape and counter numbers in a book so you can find tracks easily.

Note: Use only Stereo VCR's. Mono ones sound like shit!. Beta Hi-Fi is the best, but since they don't make them anymore you will have to search for a used unit and stores that still sell new Beta blank tape. For the unit, I suggest a TV repair shop or looking thru the classified ads on your local newspaper or place an ad saying: **WANTED Beta HI-FI will pay cash\$\$\$\$\$.** Good luck.

HHQ

Look BIG on a Small Budget

Industry rule #1, has always been looking and sounding important. So, how do you do this on a small budget? Well, it's easy. Here's some tips to help you out.

1 VOICE MAIL PAGING. All paging companies offer voice mail. Most clients are tuned off by home answering machines. Voice mail acts like a true private business line. Under \$20 a month.

2. HEADQUARTERS. Every major city has a Mail Boxes Ect. They'll rent you a P.O. Box with a suite #, instead of using your home address. They'll also receive faxes and handle all mailings. Under \$20 a month.

3. PRINTING. For all of your printing related services I suggest that you visit your nearest Kinko's or similar one stop printing house. You'll find high quality and cheap rates.

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The Editor Speaks

"Hip Hop Quarterly" is a newsletter devoted to the concerns of Producers and Artists who are new to the game. We'll try our best to put you up on things that will be usefull to you. In return , we ask for your comments and suggestions involving Hip Hop related information. HHQ, will be out every 3 months to drop advise and tips about Production. Thanks for reading,



Marcus A. Thompson/ Editor

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THA INDEX

A SAMPLING GUIDE FOR THE HIP HOP PRODUCER

July 1994

For Immediate Release

The First Hip Hop Database

TYMEX PUBLISHING introduces the first Hip Hop Database! "THA INDEX", a reference manual filled with Hip Hop Quotes and where to find them; the first of its kind. Created by Hip Hop Producer / Engineer **Marcus A. Thompson** (TIMEX SOCIAL CLUB) to assist DJ's, Producers and Artists with finding suitable phrases from other songs to scratch or sample into theirs.

Volume 1 contains over 4,000 phrases of more than 75 groups. For easy access each page offers: **Verse-Location, Song Title** and **Album Title**. All you need to do is look up the Artist you want and search the data for a phrase that fits the subject of your song.

No More Wasted Studio Time

Hard to believe? Well, it's true!!!! You can produce amazing results and you will not want to be without this valuable reference tool. "THA INDEX" will save you time and money. A must for: DJ's, Artists and Producers.

Order today for only **\$16.95** or write for a **Free "Demo-Page"**.

Tymex Publishing 2440 Seamist Dr.
Room 11 Sacramento, Ca. 95833

STUDIO CONTINUED FROM PG 1

The cheapest computer for music is the **ATARI ST**. A "Used" 1040 FM can be had for \$250. to \$300. If you can't find a 1040, you can use a 520FM (\$100. to \$125.) With a 520FM, you will need at least a 1 megabyte memory upgrade to run popular sequencing software (\$100). Yes! **IBM**, **Macintosh**, **Amiga** and **C-64's** can also be used. It's just that the **ATARI** is the best for less.

3. **Samplers**. I could go on and on about the difference between samplers, but that's another article. I'll just say that 16 bit samplers are the best. **E-mu's Emax 1**, **Ensonic's EPS-16**, **Akai's 900 or 950**, **Casio's FZ-1**, **Sequential Circuits' Prophet 2000, 2002 or 3000**, **Roland's 550**. All of these units were the joint a few years ago. They are still good today, just old. Most of the units listed can be had for under \$800.

4. **Effects**. Well if you look hard enough, you are bound to find plenty of good older effects. Stay away from pedals. They are NOISY. Look for rack mount effects. You can pick up a "Used" effects unit for under \$200.

5. **Cassette Mixdown Deck**. This is a piece of gear that you should already own. Price:= \$0. to \$99. 6. **Cords**. Your sound will also depend on how good your cords are. Cheap **Radio Shack** cords will sound just OK. High end cords(Monster Cable) will cost up to 3 times more, but you can't beat the quality. Price:=\$100. to \$300.

Well, let's add it all up and see what the grand total is for your basic starter studio.

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 1. Mixer | \$200 |
| 2. Sequencing Computer | \$250 |
| 3. Sampler | \$800 |
| 4. Effects | \$200 |
| 5. Cassette Mix Deck | \$100 |
| 6. Cords | \$100 |

Grand Total \$1,650

Looks like you might be able to afford your own set-up after all. Please keep in mind that these prices will vary. Always offer less than the asking price. Test everything before you buy it. I also left out things like: Monitors, Headphones, CD Player, Turntables, 4/8 Track Recorders. I only mentioned on the basic must need items. **HHQ**

New Releases in the (916)

B-Boy K and **Kage**, are the latest artists to release cassettes and CD's. With fall upon us, many hardcore underground Hip Hop fans are looking for new local material to bump.

Kage's "Everyday Thangs" (Capitol Flow Records), boasts 9 original tracks Produced by **Kage and Diz Money**. "**Everyday Thangs**", can be found @ Tower Records.

B-Boy K, comes through with "**Bad Influence**" (N.A.M./ Third Eye Records). 16 tracks of underground funk Produced by: **B-Boy K**, with additional production by: **Subliminal**

Seducer and DJ MatMoney. "**Bad Influence**" can be found @ Tower Records or you may contact: **Third Eye Records; P O Box 277155 Sacramento, Ca. 95827-7155**

Copyright Short Cuts

I hope you never get one of your songs stolen, but it happens everyday in the music biz!.

It happened to me, but I had a copyright on file. They didn't get away with it, but they tried. So, please don't front and say that it won't happen to you. You can copyright your own songs. It's quick and easy, you just have to learn the short cuts.

1. Call (202) 707-9100 the copyright HOTLINE recorder.
2. Listen to the message and order forms SR (Sound Recording).
3. Check the mail box in about 4 days.
4. Open and fill out the forms. Use the LINE by LINE instructions included.
5. Enclose a \$20. check or money order and a copy of your demo. (No lyric sheet required).
6. Mail it to the address listed on the bottom of the form.
7. You're done. It takes about 16 weeks to process your copyright. You'll be mailed a confirmation copy. That's all it takes, no lawyers, no hassle. **HHQ**

Free Exposure

Want some free exposure? Just mail in a demo. We'll feature a review in up coming issues. NOTE: Demo's cannot be returned.

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